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Great Lakes Border Health Initiative Public Health Communications Subcommittee

The Public Health (PH) Communications Subcommittee is composed primarily of epidemiologists and other infectious disease specialists.

This group primarily focuses on creating and/or maintaining communication links and tools that assist in infectious disease surveillance. They have been critical in the development and testing of the Infectious Disease Emergency Communication Guideline and have also developed a reportable disease list which details those diseases that are reportable in each state/province. They also collaborated to create a communication system matrix which cross-references electronic reporting capabilities across the GLBHI states and Ontario.

The PH Communications Subcommittee worked in tandem with the Legal Subcommittee to develop the GLBHI Data Sharing Agreement.

The Subcommittee also recently began a pilot program of cross-border enrollment for users of Epi-X and CIOSC, the electronic disease notification systems in use in the US and Canada, respectively.

The PH Communications Subcommittee meets monthly via teleconference and once yearly, in person, at the GLBHI annual conference.

The 2008-2009 Public Health Communications Subcommittee is chaired by Richard Buck of New York and Jim Stone of Ontario.